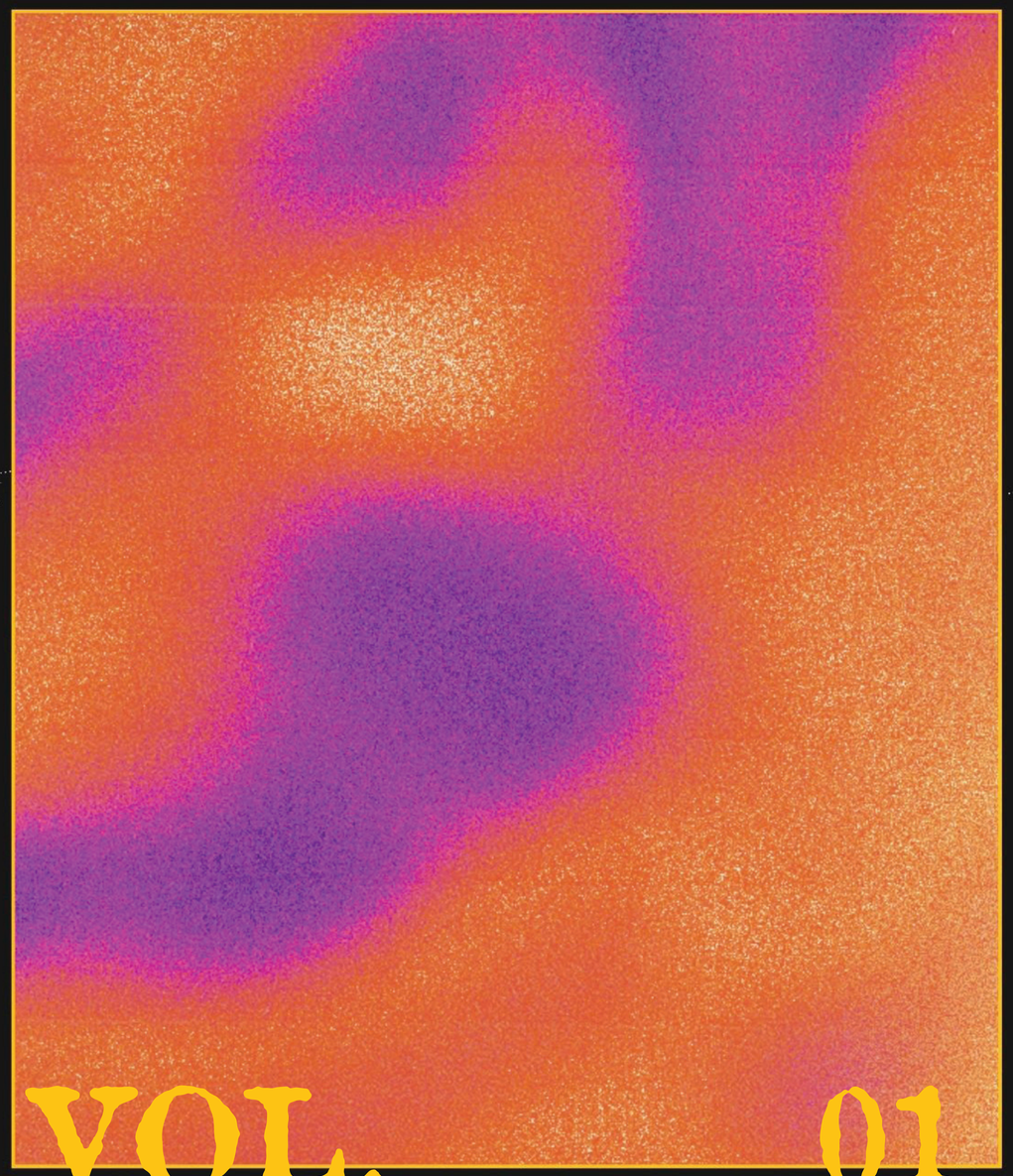
POST & PULSE COLLECT FREE ZINE

NIGHTCAP

SELECTS FROM A YEAR IN QUEER NIGHTLIFE



VOL. 01

ARCHIVE & PUBLISHING INITIATIVE OF
THE JAMES POLKINGHORNE CULTURAL FOUNDATION
FOR ART, HEALTH, AND COMMUNAL WELLNESS
@POSTANDPULSECOLLECT

ARCHIVE & PUBLISHING INITIATIVE OF
THE JAMES POLKINGHORNE CULTURAL FOUNDATION
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DEDICATED TO

REX POLKINGHORNE
XAVIER ESPEJO
BRIAN FIGUEROA
DAMIEN GOMEZ
JEREMY HOWARD
DREW LICHVAR
CHRISTOPHER LORD
CHARLES MCCRORY
JONATHAN WILLIAMS
AND JEB WHITLOCK
FOR SHARING SPACES THAT WERE BOTH SACRED AND COMMUNAL

NIGHTCAP
NIGHTCAP
NIGHTCAP

SELECTS FROM A YEAR IN QUEER NIGHTLIFE

VOL.01

NIGHTCAP
NIGHTCAP

NIGHTCAP

THE SACRED PLACE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

NIGHTCAP BEGAN WITH MY QUEER NIGHTLIFE ARCHIVE, **POST AND PULSE**, A DEDICATION TO MY LOVE OF PRINT MEDIA AND MY FIRST CHURCH OUTSIDE OF CHURCH: THE GAY NIGHTCLUB.

I THINK WE OFTEN FORGET THAT TO BE QUEER IN A PUBLIC PLACE IS MORE THAN HAVING A SPACE FOR SONG, DANCE, AND CRUISING. THE QUEER NIGHTCLUB IS DEFIANT, RADICAL, COMMUNAL, AND SACRED. FOR MANY OF US, IT IS WHERE WE REGULARLY MEET WITH FOUND FAMILY, AND WHERE WE SHARE IN OUR IDENTITIES AS OUTSIDERS AND LOVERS OF LIFE.

QUEER SPACES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EPHEMERAL, BOTH AS PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL LANDMARKS. A SPACE THAT FEELS ESSENTIAL TODAY MAY BE GONE TOMORROW, DUE TO FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS, BUSINESS DECISIONS, LEGAL HOSTILITY, OR SHIFTS IN COMMUNITY TASTE. NO MATTER THE REASON, THE PRESENCE OF A QUEER NIGHTCLUB, BRUNCH SPOT, OR DANCE PARTY IS VALUABLE PRECISELY BECAUSE IT, LIKE LIFE, IS ONLY HERE FOR A SHORT TIME.

GENERATIONS SHIFT. POLITICS CHANGE. THE PRICE OF A VODKA SODA WITH LIME RISES.

SO WE GATHER AND SING, AND FLIRT, AND LAUGH, AND CRY, AND TONGUE DOWN STRANGERS WHILE THE WORLD WATCHES. OUR MUSIC GIVES RHYTHM TO THE MOMENT; OUR BODIES BREATHE LIFE INTO CULTURE. WE ARE OFTEN NOMADS WHO USE THESE SPACES AS TRADING POSTS, EXCHANGING SECRETS, COMMERCE, AND BODILY FLUIDS, ALL IN AN ATTEMPT TO REVITALIZE OURSELVES AND CONTINUE FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT—FOR OURSELVES AND FOR OTHERS.

NIGHTCAP IS MEANT TO HIGHLIGHT THE SPACES THAT GIVE US REST, A STAGE TO FLAUNT, AND ROOM FOR RECOGNITION. A TEMPLE TO THE GODS OF BEAUTY, EXPRESSION, AND DESIRE. A PLACE WHERE WE PAY OUR TITHES IN THE FORM OF TIPS TO MUSCLE-ARMED BARTENDERS AND WORSHIP AT THE FEET OF GO-GO BOYS.

IN THE INAUGURAL EDITION OF NIGHTCAP, I HAVE SELECTED 25 PRINTS FROM 2025 TO SHOWCASE THE DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY OF THESE SPACES AND WHAT THEY REVEAL ABOUT HOW WE COMMUNE A QUARTER CENTURY INTO THE MILLENNIUM. I HOPE YOU FIND THE BEAUTY IN THESE PRINTS, AND NOTE THEIR SIGNIFICANCE AS CALLING CARDS TO THOSE WHO SEEK A HOME WHERE THEY CAN LOVE AND LUST OPENLY: AN OASIS OF ACCEPTANCE IN A WORLD DETERMINED TO PUT OUT OUR FIRE.

JOIN ME ON THE DANCE FLOOR,
AT THE SACRED PLACE.

CJ POLKINGHORNE, JAN 2026

BODY MOVE

PERFORMERS, DANCERS, NIGHTLIFE TALENT—ENERGY IN MOTION.

THEMED NIGHTS AND SEXY BODIES IN REVEALING CLOTHING ARE A TRIED-AND-TRUE FORMULA FOR ANY NIGHTCLUB, AND QUEER SPACES ARE NO EXCEPTION. A GOOD-LOOKING FACE HELPS, BUT QUEER POSTERS RELY ON AN ANCIENT CALLING CARD: THE ENTICING BODY. DRESSED ACCORDING TO THEME—OR SIMPLY DRESSED TO SHOW SKIN—THESE FIGURES PROMISE SPECTACLE AND SURRENDER. THEY REMIND US OF THE PLEASURE OF DRESSING UP AND THE DELICIOUS CERTAINTY THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE ROOM, SOMEONE'S BOOTY WILL BE SHAKING. TIPPING ENCOURAGED.

DESIRE IS NOT SUBTLE HERE. IT IS INVITATION, ADVERTISEMENT, AND CELEBRATION ALL AT ONCE. THE BODY BECOMES BOTH MESSENGER AND MESSAGE—MOVING US BEFORE WE EVEN STEP THROUGH THE DOOR.

BODY MOVES
BODY MOVES
BODY MOVES
BODY MOVES
BODY MOVES
BODY MOVES
BODY MOVES
BODY MOVES
BODY

NIGHTMARE IN LEATHER - EAGLE LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

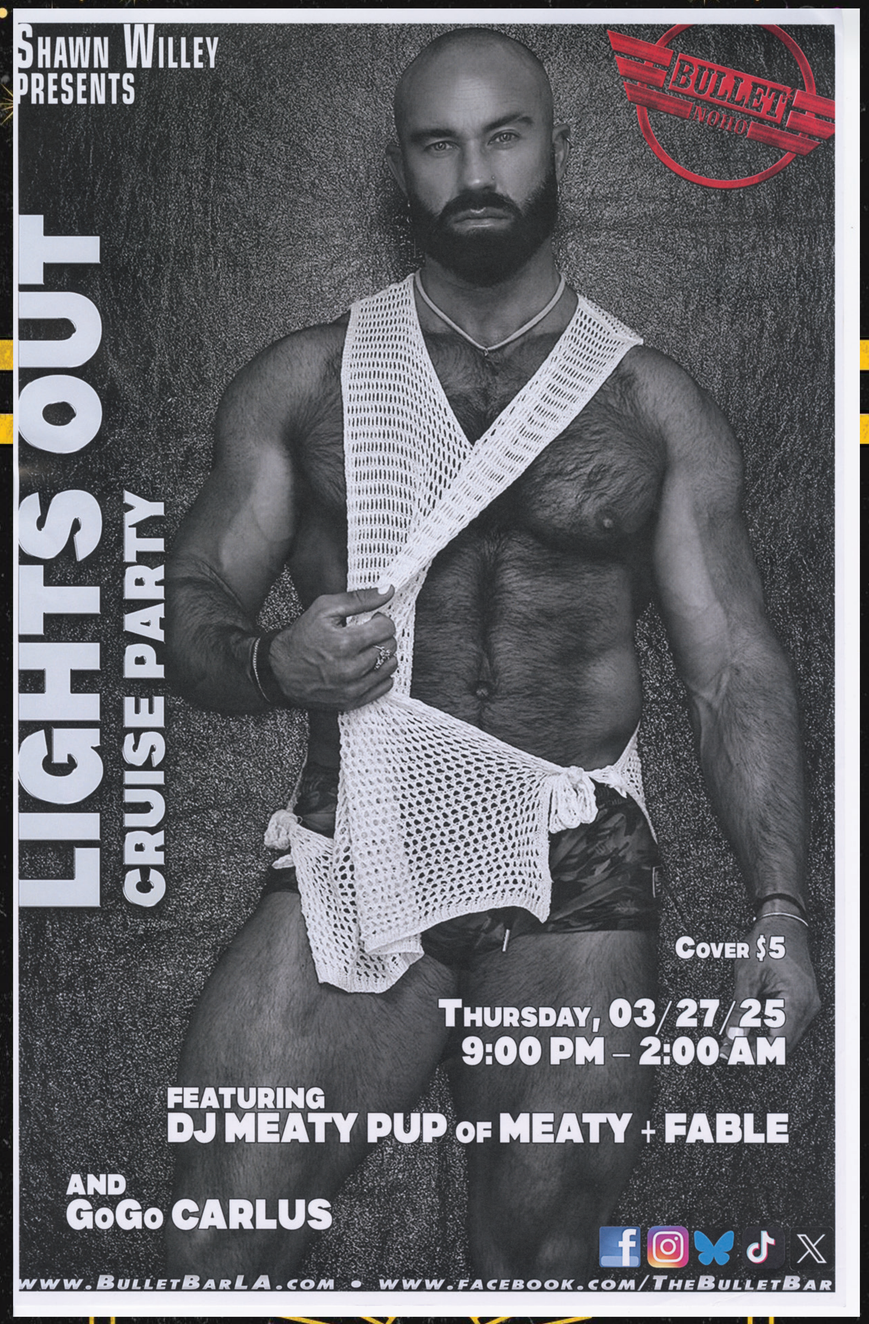
THE EAGLE LA / OCT 2025

BODY MOVES

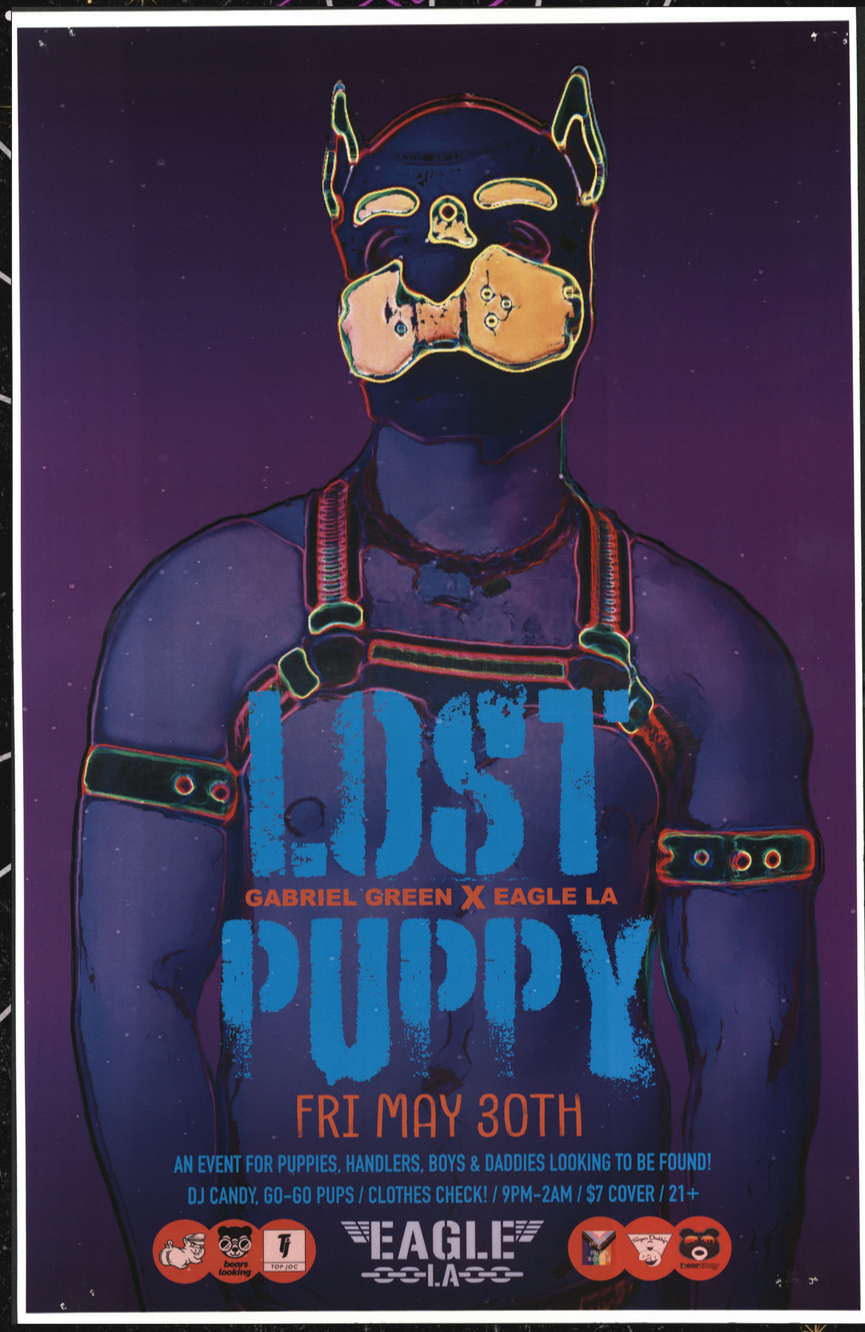
JOCKS AND JERSEYS 4 - EAGLE LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

THE EAGLE LA / NOV 2025

NIGHTCAP VOL.01



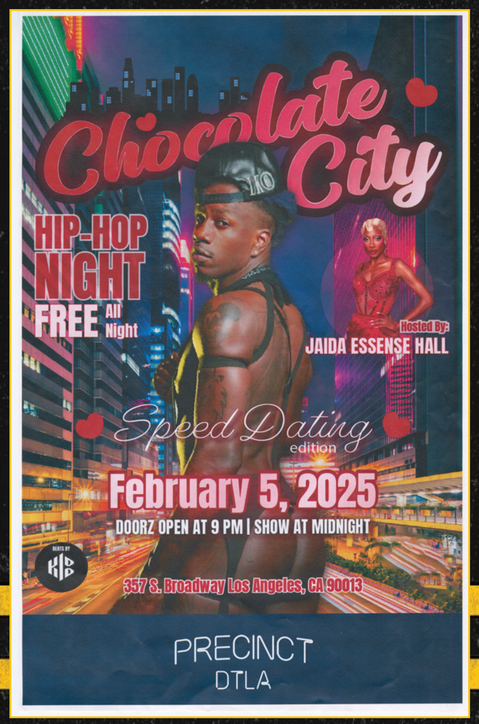
LIGHTS OUT CRUISE PARTY – BULLET LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER
BULLET BAR NOHO / MARCH 2025


LOST
PUPPY
GABRIEL GREEN X EAGLE LA
FRI MAY 30TH
AN EVENT FOR PUPPIES, HANDLERS, BOYS & DADDIES LOOKING TO BE FOUND!
DJ CANDY, GO-GO PUPS / CLOTHES CHECK! / 9PM-2AM / $7 COVER / 21+
EAGLE LA

LOST PUPPY – EAGLE LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER
THE EAGLE LA / MAY 2025

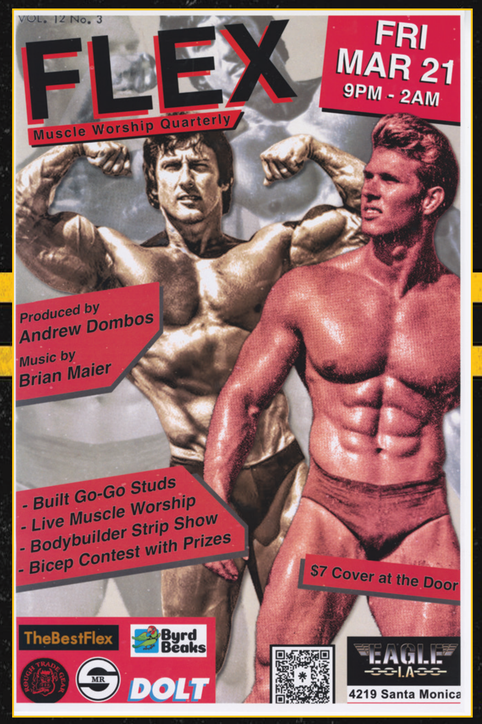
CONTRAMUNDO 4:20 - BULLET LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

BULLET BAR LA / APRIL 2025



CHOCOLATE CITY: SPEED DATING EDITION - PRECINCT DTLA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

PRECINCT DTLA/ FEB 2025



FLEX MUSCLE WORSHIP - EAGLE LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

THE EAGLE LA / MARCH 2025

NIGHTCAP VOL.01

2025

THE NIGHT

THEY WATCHED HIM
JUMP
FROM THE EMPTY
PLATFORM
ONTO THE DANCE FLOOR
LANDING ON THE GUY
HE HAD KISSED
MINUTES BEFORE

HE HAD OBVIOUSLY
HAD TOO MANY
OBVIOUSLY

BUT WAS IT OBVIOUS
HE HAD JUST LOST
THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE?
THAT TONIGHT
WAS THE FIRST NIGHT
HE HAD GONE OUT
WITHOUT HIM?

THAT HIS FALL
FROM THE PLATFORM
MIRRORED THE FALL
FROM THE NEST OF
SAFETY
HE HAD SPENT YEARS
BUILDING
ONLY TO LAND
IN A PAIN
HE DIDN'T KNOW
WAS POSSIBLE
TO SURVIVE?

THE NIGHT STARTED
WITH
NO HAIR OUT OF PLACE
NO FLAW IN HIS OUTFIT
NO WEIGHT
ON THE FINGER
WHERE HIS RING USED
TO BE

AS QUICKLY AS THE
ALCOHOL HIT
THE CANCER HIT
QUICKER
HIS PARTNER HAD BEEN
STURDY
SOLID
BUILT TO LEAN ON
WAS
UNTIL HE BEGAN
TO WITHER AWAY
AND NOW
THERE WAS NO ONE
TO CATCH HIM
WAS THE WATER
THEY FORCED INTO HIM
TO SOBER HIM UP

AS WELCOME
AS THE MORPHINE DRIP?
DID HIS FRIENDS
CONVINCE HIM
THAT EVERYTHING
WAS FINE
WITH THE SAME CARE
HE HAD GIVEN
AT HIS PARTNER'S
BEDSIDE?
BUT TONIGHT
HE WAS
SMILING
LAUGHING
CRYING
SHARING

THE EMBRACE OF A
STRANGER
MADE HIM REMEMBER
THEIR LAST HUG
THE SONG
BLARING FROM THE
SPEAKERS
DROWNED OUT
THE HUM
OF THE HOSPITAL BED
HE HAD SAT BESIDE
FOR MONTHS

HIS FIRST NIGHT SOLO

OLD FRIENDS
WHO SHARED HIS LOSS

NEW FRIENDS
WHO HELPED HIM STAND
AGAIN
THO MORE UNSTEADY

TONIGHT
WAS ABOUT CELEBRATION
THEY HADN'T
CELEBRATED
THEIR LAST
ANNIVERSARY
BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT
THERE'D BE ANOTHER
ONE

SO YES
HE TOOK ANOTHER SHOT
YES

HE MADE OUT
WITH THE TALL GUY
IN THE FLANNEL SHIRT
HE DECIDED TO LIVE
FOR THE MAN
WHO WOULD NO LONGER
JOIN HIM
ON THE DANCE FLOOR

BY MORNING
A SWOLLEN ANKLE
HAZY MEMORIES
THE COOL TOUCH OF THE
ICE PACK
MAKING LITERAL
THE PAIN
HE HAD SPENT THE
EVENING
IGNORING

A NEW DAY
A COLD REALITY

IT WOULD TAKE TIME
TO HEAL

HE LISTENED
TO WHAT OTHERS
REMEMBERED
CRINGED
WITH SHAME
AND JOY

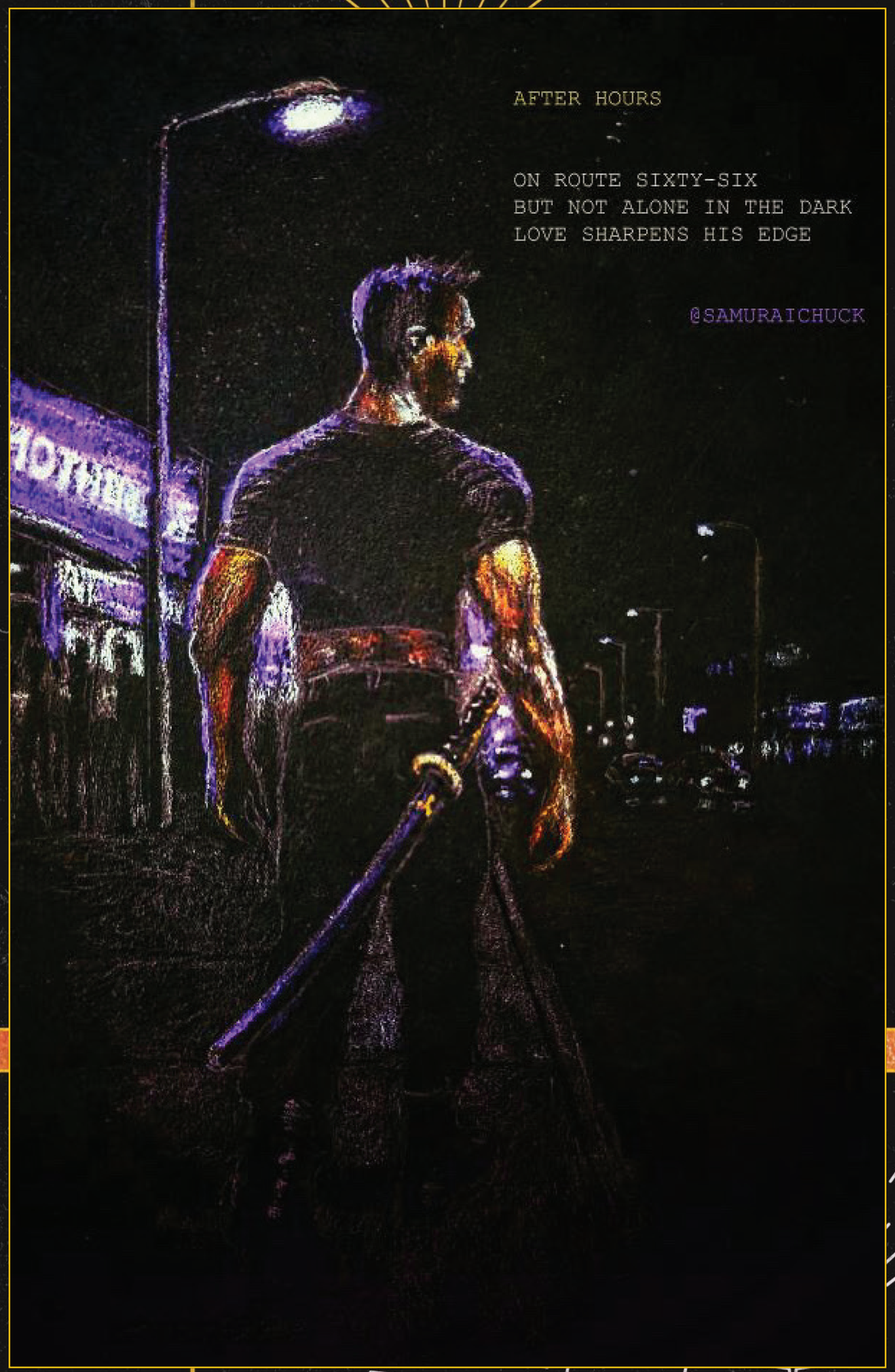
HE HAD A STORY
A TIME
WAS HAD
A BRUISE
PROVED
THERE WAS STILL BLOOD
IN HIS VEINS

A PAIN
REMINDED HIM OF WHERE
HE HAD BEEN
LAST NIGHT
AND THERE WOULD BE
MANY MORE DAYS
TO COME

A MORNING
THAT PROVED
HE MADE IT
THROUGH

THE NIGHT

BY CJ POLKINGHORNE



GRAPHIC CONTENT

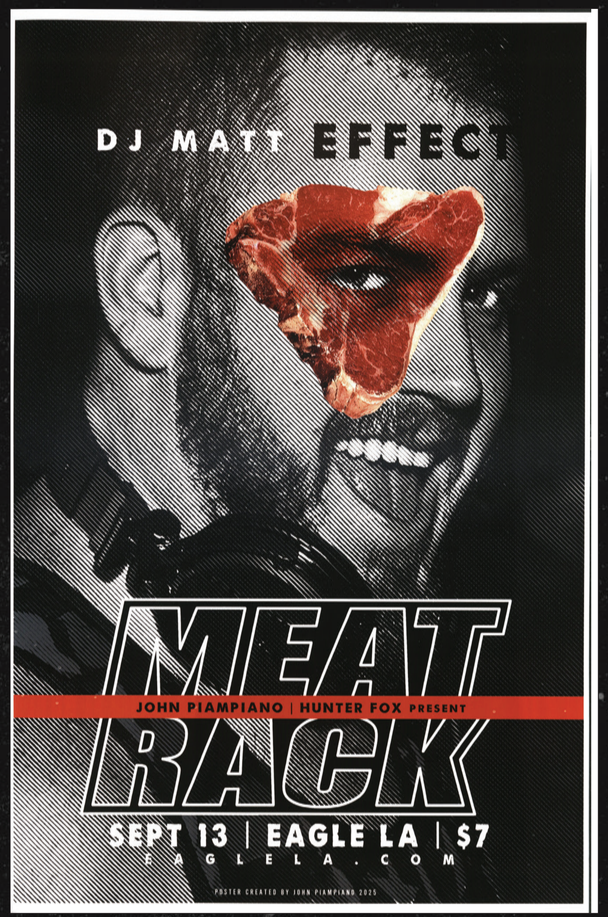
IT'S NOT ALL MUSCLE MEN AND GLITTER.

QUEER NIGHTCLUBS ARE EQUALLY ABOUT EXPRESSION, DISRUPTION, AND DARING TO TAKE UP SPACE. THESE PRINCIPLES ALSO SHAPE A POWERFUL POSTER. SOMETIMES THE BODY IS THE CANVAS; OTHER TIMES, TYPOGRAPHY TAKES THE LEAD AND LETS THE WORDS DO THE TALKING.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF AI AND DIGITAL RENDERING, WE'VE USHERED IN A NEW AESTHETIC—AND PERHAPS EVEN A NEW BODY IDEAL—TO CONTEND WITH. WHETHER THROUGH GRAPHIC DESIGN, ILLUSTRATION, COLLAGE, OR COMPUTER GENERATION, THE ARTIST COMMUNICATES IN A VISUAL LANGUAGE THAT TRANSCENDS TIME, PLACE, GENDER, AND ORIENTATION.

THE GOAL REMAINS THE SAME: TO LET YOU KNOW WHERE WE WILL BE.

GRAPHIC CONTENT GRAPHIC CONTENT GRAPHIC CONTENT GRAPHIC CONTENT GRAPHIC CONTENT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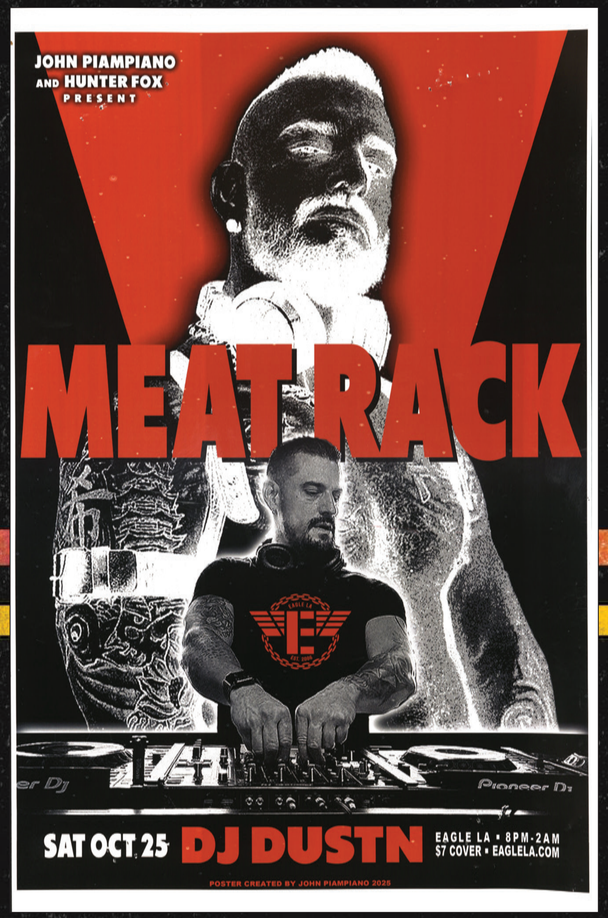
MEAT RACK: DJ MATT EFFECT– EAGLE LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

EAGLE LA / SEPT 2025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MEAT RACK: DJ DUSTN – EAGLE LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

EAGLE LA / OCT 2025

GRAPHIC CONTENT

NOCHE DEL JAGUAR – VALLARTA PRIDE MANTAMAR PROMOTIONAL POSTER

MANTAMAR MX / MAY 2025

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VALLARTA PRIDE
PUERTO VALLARTA
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GRANT GSP HOOLIO KMACHO LUIS SERRANO PHIL ROMANO
PONNY D'SEAS RYAN JOHN TACKTHAI TOMMY LOVE

FUTURE HAS NO GENDER – VALLARTA PRIDE MANTAMAR PROMOTIONAL POSTER

MANTAMAR MX / MAY 2025

QUEER WAVES – VALLARTA PRIDE MANTAMAR PROMOTIONAL POSTER

MANTAMAR MX / MAY 2025

STEAM TOWEL PARTY SOLO – BULLET NOHO PROMOTIONAL POSTER

THE EAGLE / APRIL 2025

BUTCH QUEEN BASH – EAGLE LA AND LOS ANGELES SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE PROMOTIONAL POSTER

EAGLE LA/ JUNE 2025

GRAPHIC CONTENT

EAGLE LA and THE LOS ANGELES SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE
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NIGHTCAP VOL.01

HOWL SWAP & MEET SPEED DATING – PRECINCT DTLA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

PRECINCT DTLA/ JULY 2025

GRAPHIC CONTENT

NIGHTCAP VOL.01

OFF SUNSET FESTIVAL 2025 PROMOTIONAL POSTER

EAGLE LA / APRIL 2025

INTERVIEW: FIRME

WITH HECTOR PEREZ CO-FOUNDER, CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF **FIRME**

WHAT SPECIFIC MOMENT, FRUSTRATION, OR GAP LED YOU TO START FIRME?
MY CO-FOUNDER ADRIAN AND I WERE TIRED OF QUEER SPACES THAT FELT DISPOSABLE, PARTIES THAT LOOKED GOOD ONLINE BUT FELT HOLLOW IN REAL LIFE. SPACES WHERE LATINE AND QUEER BODIES WERE PRESENT BUT DIDN'T FEEL ROOTED IN OR PAID HOMAGE TO L.A. FIRME CAME FROM WANTING SOMETHING THAT FELT DELIBERATE, CULTURAL, AND EMOTIONALLY REAL, NOT JUST A NIGHT OUT.

WHY DID FIRME NEED TO EXIST WHEN IT DID? WHAT FELT URGENT ABOUT THAT MOMENT?
POST-PANDEMIC, EVERYTHING FELT RUSHED BACK INTO SAMENESS. QUEER NIGHTLIFE WAS REAPPEARING, BUT WITHOUT REFLECTION OR CARE. FIRME FELT URGENT BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE CRAVING CONNECTION, SAFETY, AND CULTURE, NOT JUST NOISE. IT NEEDED TO EXIST AS A RESET, A REMINDER THAT WE DESERVE TO TAKE UP SPACE (GAY BARS, LATIN BARS, AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN.). THERE STILL AREN'T ENOUGH QUEER LATINE SPACES, AND WITH EVERYTHING HAPPENING POLITICALLY, IT FELT NECESSARY TO CREATE A SPACE THAT CELEBRATES LATINE JOY, VISIBILITY, AND COMMUNITY.

WHAT SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT HOW PEOPLE RESPONDED TO FIRME?
HOW DEEPLY PEOPLE SAW THEMSELVES IN IT. WE EXPECTED ATTENDANCE, WE DIDN'T EXPECT ATTACHMENT. PEOPLE DIDN'T JUST COME, THEY CLAIMED IT. THEY BROUGHT THEIR FRIENDS, THEIR LOVERS, THEIR FULL SELVES. FIRME BECAME A REFERENCE POINT, NOT JUST A PARTY.

WHAT WAS MISSING IN THE LOS ANGELES QUEER NIGHTLIFE SCENE THAT FIRME SET OUT TO CREATE OR PROTECT?
CONSISTENCY, CARE, AND CULTURAL SPECIFICITY ROOTED IN LA AND CHICANO STREET CULTURE AND SOUNDS. FIRME PROTECTS SPACE FOR QUEER LATINE EXPRESSION WITHOUT TRANSLATING ITSELF FOR ANYONE ELSE. IT'S NOT APOLOGETIC, NOT WATERED DOWN, AND NOT BUILT FOR SPECTATORSHIP.

WERE THERE PARTIES, PEOPLE, OR CULTURAL MOVEMENTS, LOCALLY OR ELSEWHERE, THAT SHAPED FIRME'S IDENTITY/MISSION?
YES, UNDERGROUND PARTY CULTURE FROM THE 80'S/90'S, EARLY LA FLYER DESIGNS, LATIN AMERICAN CLUB AESTHETICS, PROTEST GRAPHICS, AND QUEER SPACES THAT PRIORITIZED COMMUNITY OVER CLOUT. FIRME IS INFLUENCED AS MUCH BY CULTURAL MEMORY AS IT IS BY NIGHTLIFE.

FIRME'S POSTERS ARE GRAPHIC-FORWARD AND COLOR-DRIVEN RATHER THAN IMAGE-BASED. WHAT INFLUENCED THAT VISUAL LANGUAGE, AND WHAT DOES IT SIGNAL TO THE COMMUNITY?
THE POSTERS DESIGNS ARE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE COLBY POSTER CO. A STAPLE IN THIS MINIMAL COLORFUL AND TEXT-FORWARD POSTER DESIGNS ORIGINATING IN LOS ANGELES. TYPE AND COLOR ARE HARDER TO IGNORE, THEY DEMAND PRESENCE. JUST LIKE OUR PEOPLE.

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF QUEER SPACES, WHAT DO YOU HOPE SURVIVES—AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE CHANGES?
I HOPE INTIMACY, COLLABORATION, AND CULTURAL SPECIFICITY SURVIVE. I HOPE MONEY-DRIVEN PROMOTERS, HOLLOW BRANDING, AND ELITIST STYLE PARTIES DISAPPEAR. QUEER SPACES SHOULD EVOLVE, BUT THEY SHOULD NEVER LOSE THEIR MESSAGE.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO HAVE FIRME DOCUMENTED AS PART OF A LIVING QUEER ARCHIVE?
IT'S POWERFUL. IT MEANS FIRME ISN'T JUST A MOMENT, ITS COMMUNITY. PROOF THAT QUEER LATINE PEOPLE WERE HERE, ORGANIZING JOY, BUILDING CULTURE, AND DOING IT ON OUR OWN TERMS.

IF FIRME WERE TO DISAPPEAR TOMORROW, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT PEOPLE TO REMEMBER ABOUT IT?
THAT IT FELT INTENTIONAL. THAT IT FELT SAFE WITHOUT BEING SOFT. THAT IT CENTERED QUEER LATINE LA CULTURE UNAPOLOGETICALLY. AND THAT, FOR A MOMENT, IT GAVE PEOPLE PERMISSION TO SHOW UP FULLY PRESENT, AND SEEN, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY FIRME.

OFF SUNSET FESTIVAL WEEKEND 2025
JOHN PIAMPIANO / HUNTER FOX PRESENT
DJ MATT EFFECT
SAT APR 26
MEAT RACK 18 OFF SUNSET FESTIVAL 2025 PROMOTIONAL POSTER
THE EAGLE LA / APRIL 2025
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GRAPHIC CONTENT

MEAT RACK: 18YR ANNIVERSARY - EAGLE LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER
EAGLE LA/ APRIL 2025

CONTRAMUNDO: HOUSE OF WHORES LATIN NIGHT - PRECINCT DTLA PROMOTIONAL POSTER
BULLET BAR NOHO / OCT 2025

SCOOTER

I NEEDED TO LEAVE THE HOUSE BEFORE THE WALLS LEARNED MY NAME. WORK, SCHOOL, MARRIAGE — ALL OF IT HAD PRESSED FINGERPRINTS INTO MY RIBS. THE AIRBNB, MID-RENOVATION AND FULL OF DUST, HAD TURNED TRUST INTO SOMETHING BRITTLE AND BREAKABLE. SO I TOLD MY HUSBAND, THE ONE I WAS FIGHTING WITH, THAT I WAS GOING TO THE GAY BAR. A SMALL ACT OF FREEDOM. A SMALL ACT OF SURVIVAL.

THE EDIBLE HAD ALREADY SOFTENED THE EDGES OF THE WORLD, SO WALKING FELT NOBLE BUT CRUEL TO MY INJURED TOE. DRIVING FELT DANGEROUS, TOO TRAGIC AN ENDING FOR A NIGHT MEANT TO SAVE ME. THEN I SAW IT: THE SCOOTER. LIME GREEN, LONE, WAITING LIKE A PROMISE I DIDN'T KNOW I'D MADE. A COMPROMISE HUMMING ON THE SIDEWALK. THE NIGHT BEGAN WITH A TWIST OF THE HANDLE AND THE ACHE OF MY ANKLE EASING.

INSIDE, THE BAR BREATHED FOR ME. PURPLE LIGHTS SLID ACROSS SKIN AND SEQUINS. A PERFORMER UNDRESSED THE ROOM WITH A PRACTICED TEASE. A FAVORITE GOGO BOY POURED MY DRINK. DANCERS I KNEW AND DANCERS I DIDN'T FOLDED ME INTO THEIR ORBIT. MAYBE IT WAS COMMUNITY. MAYBE THE EDIBLE. MAYBE BOTH. I LET MYSELF BE HELD BY IT.

EVEN MID-ARGUMENT, I INVITED MY HUSBAND. HE CAME BRIEFLY, LEFT QUIETLY. WRONG VIBE, RIGHT INSTINCT. I STAYED, LETTING THE RANCH WATERS STACK INTO COURAGE. LETTING MEN KISS ME LIKE DESIRE WAS A LANGUAGE I WAS FLUENT IN. A SHORT BEAR WITH CERTAIN HANDS. A TALL LATIN BRO WHOSE MOUTH MATCHED THE LIQUOR ON MINE. DOLLARS TRADED FOR WARMTH, FOR TOUCH, FOR BEING SEEN. I SHUT THE BAR DOWN, LIGHTER BY CASH AND MISSING AN OVERSHIRT I'D BARELY BROKEN IN. THE PRICE OF BEING ALIVE FOR ONE NIGHT.

OUTSIDE, MY SCOOTER WAITED — A TINY LIGHTHOUSE IN A DARK SEA. **I RODE INTO SILENCE,** INTO STREETS THAT HAD SWALLOWED THE MUSIC WHOLE. A CONSTRUCTION DETOUR PULLED ME TO THE GROUND, AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW THEM. A SMALL GROUP AHEAD. TWO FAMILIAR FACES FROM THE BAR: A YOUNG MAN AND A FRIEND IN A GREEN DRESS THE SAME SHADE AS MY RIDE, LIKE THE NIGHT WANTED TO SPEAK IN ONE COLOR.

THEY REMEMBERED ME. ASKED IF I HAD FUN. ASKED IF MY KISS WAS AS GOOD AS I MADE IT SEEM. THERE WAS ONE WAY TO CONFIRM. OUR MOUTHS MET — QUICK, WARM, A PUNCTUATION MARK IN THE DARK.

THEN HER HAND.

THEN HER MOUTH.

THEN THE FREEZE.

THEN THEIR LAUGHTER AS THEY RAN.

AND I WAS ALONE AGAIN, WITH ONLY THE SCOOTER HUMMING UNDER THE STREETLIGHT AS IF IT HAD SEEN THE WHOLE THING.

I RODE HOME IN A SILENCE THAT NO LONGER FELT PEACEFUL.

IN THE MORNING, MEMORY ARRIVED LIKE A BRUISE SURFACING. DID IT HAPPEN THAT WAY? WAS I DRUNK, CARELESS, INVITING? WAS IT MY FAULT FOR THE LOOSE SHORTS, THE MISSING SHIRT, THE DESIRE TO FEEL DESIRED? I WONDERED WHAT THE WORLD WOULD SAY IF THE ROLES REVERSED. IF I FELT ENTITLED TO HER BODY THE WAY SHE FELT TO MINE. WHOSE STORY WOULD BE BELIEVED? WHOSE FEAR WOULD BE VALIDATED? TWO PEOPLE THE WORLD HAS ALREADY DECIDED NOT TO PROTECT.

MAYBE I IMAGINED IT.

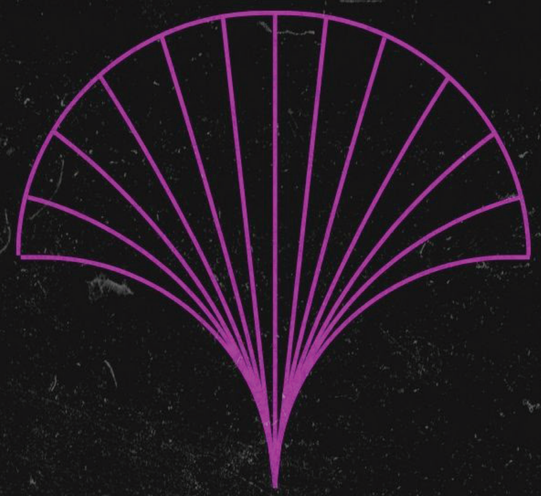
MAYBE I DIDN'T.

BUT WHEN I STEPPED OUTSIDE TO STEADY MYSELF, THE SCOOTER WAS STILL THERE — LIME GREEN, AWKWARDLY TILTED, DEFIANTLY ANCHORED. A RELIC OF JOY, A WITNESS TO DANGER, A REMINDER THAT EVEN THE SAFER OPTIONS CAN CARRY THEIR OWN SHARP TEETH.

2025

BY CJ POLKINGHORNE

SAFE SPACE
SAFE SPACE
SAFE SPACE
SAFE SPACE
SAFE SPACE



SAFE SPACE

FOR GENERATIONS, HOUSES OF THE DIVINE HAVE DOUBLED AS PLACES OF WORSHIP AND SANCTUARIES FOR THOSE SEEKING REFUGE. THE QUEER CLUB CARRIES THAT LINEAGE FORWARD—A HEARTH OF HEART AND HARNESS.

WHILE ALL ARE WELCOME, THERE ARE A SPECIAL FEW FOR WHOM THESE SPACES OFFER MORE THAN A NIGHT OUT; THEY OFFER A MOMENT IN THE SUN. THESE CLUBS BECOME TEMPLES OF TRANSFIGURATION, ALLOWING THOSE WHO ENTER TO EMBODY VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES OFTEN HIDDEN FROM THE WORLD OUTSIDE.

THEY SERVE AS NEW TOWN HALLS WHERE WE GATHER TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE, NEW STAGES FROM WHICH TO SPEAK TO AND FOR THE MASSES, AND LIGHTHOUSES GUIDING THOSE BRAVE ENOUGH TO VENTURE OUT IN DARK TIMES.

BE IT HIM OR HER, THEY OR THEM—WE ARE ALL WORTHY OF THE LIGHT.

SAFE SPACE

EVERY THURSDAY
BEARS CUBS OTTERS AND OTHER FURRY CRITTERS!
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BARE CHEST CONTEST
$100 CASH PRIZE
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2025
MATIAS GOMEZ CONSTENLA
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A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER
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9PM ▪ $7 SUGGESTED DONATION REQUESTED
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BIQTCHIN' – PRECINCT DTLA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

PRECINCT DTLA / FEB 2025

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THE EAGLE / MARCH 2025

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THE EAGLE / MARCH 2025

LEATHER BEAST XL / BULLET BAR PROMOTIONAL POSTER

BULLET BAR NOHO / DEC 2025

MR. LEATHER 2025 COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER WITH THE TRANS WELLNESS CENTER – EAGLE LA PROMOTIONAL POSTER

THE EAGLE / MARCH 2025

LOS ANGELES LEATHER PRIDE 2025

UNITE!

IT'S TIME TO COME TOGETHER!

MARCH 23-30, 2025

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EAGLE LA / APRIL 2025

THE FIGHT: A QUEER REVOLUTION – EAGLE LA PROMOTIONAL POSTERR

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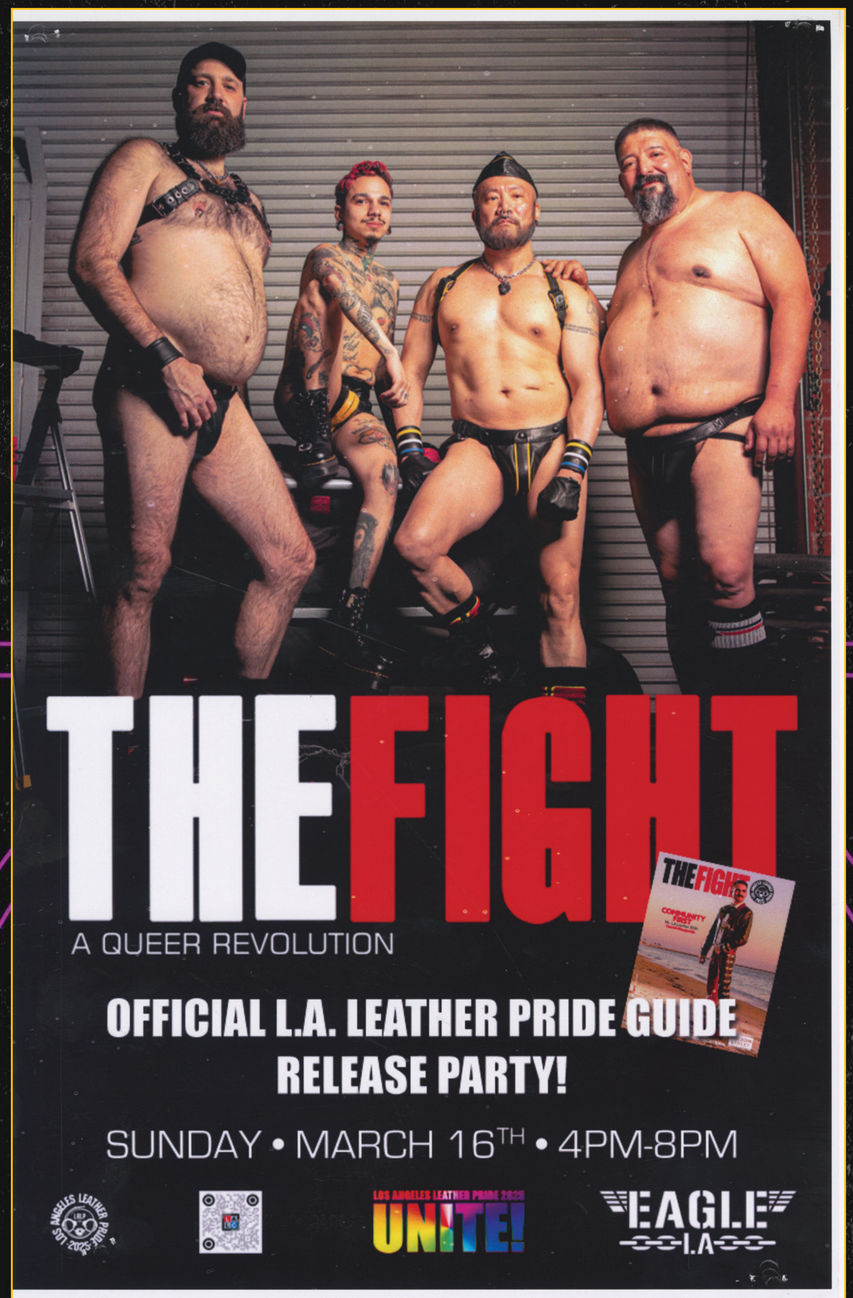

SAFE SPACE

THE PRICE FOR VULNERABILITY

THE WORLD WILL TREAT YOU
HARSHLY ENOUGH,
EVEN WITHOUT THE PEOPLE ELEMENT.
THE INESCAPABLE ELEMENT,
HOWEVER, REMAINS:
WE MUST COEXIST.
COHABITATE.
AND SOMETIMES,
IF WE ARE LUCKY,
WE WILL FIND SOMEONE
WHO CAN RELATE TO US
ON A MUCH DEEPER LEVEL
THAN JUST FRIENDSHIP.
WE MAY FIND A COMPANION.
AND DEPENDING ON THE STAGE OF LIFE
IN WHICH YOU FIND YOURSELF,
YOU WILL PROBABLY FIND YOURSELF
AFRAID.
AFRAID OF OPENING UP.
AFRAID OF REVEALING WHO YOU ARE.
AFRAID OF BEING VULNERABLE.
THE PRICE WE PAY FOR VULNERABILITY
IS COMPLETE AND UTTER REJECTION:
A REJECTION OF US AS A WHOLE,
THAT OUR COLLECTIONS OF EXPERIENCES,
OUR LIFE STORY,
ARE NOT WORTHY
OF THE PERSON STANDING IN FRONT OF US.
THAT WE ARE EITHER WEAK,
OR NOT UP TO PAR PHYSICALLY.
THE RISK OF HAVING OUR FLAWS—
WHICH WE HAVE SO CAREFULLY HIDDEN—
BROUGHT TO THE LIGHT,
DISPLAYED FOR ANOTHER HUMAN TO SEE.
THE PRICE FOR VULNERABILITY
IS REALIZING WE ARE NOT PERFECT,
THAT WE ARE NOT THE GRAND HERO OF THE STORY,
BUT PERHAPS JUST A BACKGROUND CHARACTER
GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.
AN EGO DEATH WITHOUT ANY DRUG.
A BAD TRIP,
INDUCED BY ANOTHER SEEING YOU
FOR THE FIRST TIME.
DOES YOUR CURRENT VERSION
HAVE BUGS?
WILL YOU FULLY REVEAL YOURSELF
AS WHO YOU ARE,
OR WILL YOU HIDE?
WILL YOU RETREAT?
THE PAIN OF REJECTION IS HARD.
BUT NEVER ALLOWING YOURSELF
TO BE SEEN,
TO BE APPRECIATED,
TO BE LOVED—EVEN WITH FLAWS—
THAT PAIN IS ETERNAL.
AND THE PRICE OF VULNERABILITY,
WHEN THE ALTERNATIVE IS
NEVER BEING REAL,
MERELY A SHADOW,
IS BUT CENTS.
SO STEP INTO THE SUN.
BE SEEN.
AND PAY WHAT YOU HAVE TO
FOR A CHANCE.
FOR HOPE.
FOR YOU.

ROBERTO MONICO, DEC 2025

S A F E
SPACE

EVER AFTERS 2025

DEDICATED TO THE QUEER SPACES
WE'VE LOST ALONG THE WAY

NIGHTCAP
VOL.01

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